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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

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REPORT ON BULGARIA  
(June 1949)

### A. Internal Political Situation

1. Union of Communist Pomaks

During March 1948, a society known as the Union of Communist Pomaks was founded in the Pomak village of Hacıvran (16 kilometers south of Krumovgrad). The organization is headed by Hussein Solef, a man of obscure origin or parentage, who, some say, was originally from Hacıvran, and others say was born at Medusa, in the suburbs of Iskece. The second congress of this organization assembled 18 March 1949 at Hacıvran. With three to five delegates from each village, the congress consisted of 120 members.

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Mobilization of Pomaks [redacted] was begun in 1948. If 2,000 to 3,000 Pomaks were then under arms and aiding the guerrillas, most of them have deserted. At present there are only about 200 to 300 Pomaks

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They are led by a man known as Kemal [redacted] He has wounded in the face during a battle and was treated in a Bulgarian hospital. Headquarters of Communist Pomak guerrillas is at Baciviran. At present there is in the Merich Region a Moslem guerrilla group headed by a man known as Shaban, from the village of Karaoglan of Iskece.

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## 2. Resistance Organizations

Trouble is brewing throughout Bulgaria, but in spite of this there is no mention of a mass rebellion. One reason for this is that there are militia units besides army troops. The civilian section of the militia has brought about a dangerous condition. Those persons who are under suspicion of being unfaithful to the regime are watched closely by the civilian militia, who attempt to frighten the suspects into committing acts against the government. Suspects are watched until they are caught redhanded and are then arrested. Immediately thereafter, the militia go to the arrested suspect's home and ask his

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whereabouts. They inform the victim's family that they have only 2 days in which to produce and give the suspect over to the militia or the suspect will be killed when he is arrested and the entire family sent to concentration camps. Two days later they return to the suspect's home and inform the family that the victim has been killed by militia forces. Three days later they return with the clothing of the murdered suspect and give the family only one day to prepare themselves. The following day they are sent to a concentration camp.

It is this situation that has created such terrible fear throughout the nation. Because of this, no one dares to rise in rebellion. Yet there are those who have taken up arms for resistance. Sometimes night assaults are made on mills. When busses are attacked, passengers are not molested but are asked to contribute whatever they can to the resistance groups. It is said that during the summer of 1949, passengers on a bus that had been attacked voluntarily gave the partisans whatever they had on their person.

According to public opinion, Bulgaria may be liberated only by foreign intervention. According to expressions by certain important persons, if resistance groups organize in the Rhodope mountains and are armed, they may control all of Bulgaria.

There are active resistance groups in the Rhodope and Balkan mountains.

#### 2a. Religion and Communism

Religion is Communism's greatest enemy. The Communists wish to have Communism play the same role that religion played during the Middle Ages. They attempt to make the people accept the fact that Communism is the natural religion and that those who lead this religion are prophets and even gods. In accordance with this system, the Communists have taken over all religious activities in Bulgaria. They have been arresting church personnel and priests on charges of espionage and sending them to concentration camps. To prevent the people from continuing to go to church, undercover militia hide about the churches and confront churchgoers by asking for their identification papers and then ordering them to report to militia headquarters the following day. The following day, they are sent out to concentration and labor camps. Yet, despite all this, people still go to the churches and wait for their salvation from the church.

Religious studies and prayers before and after classes in schools have been discontinued. The prayers have been replaced by prayers to Stalin and Georgi Dimitroff.

#### 3. 73d Anniversary of Botev's Death

The 73d anniversary of the death of the Bulgarian rebel Hristo Botev was celebrated with a public demonstration of socialism.

The purpose of this celebration, the anniversary of the death of national heroes who died in liberating Bulgaria from the Turkish yoke, is to renew and strengthen hostile attitudes toward the Turks.

The anniversary was celebrated in great preparation and propaganda on the part of Soviet Maj Gen Aleksandir Gundarof and a Soviet delegation.

Maj Gen Georgi Danyanof, Bulgarian Minister of National Defense, stated at the demonstration on Mount Vela:

"The Bulgarian's wish to follow the road to peace and true democracy is much stronger than the steel of American guns....Long live the Fatherland Front and the Communist Party which carry on Botev's aims....Long live Dimitroff."

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**SECRET****4. Travel Restrictions**

There are no travel restrictions on the railroads. All Bulgarians with identification papers may travel anywhere in the country.

The only restriction is travel on the Easkoy-Topolovgrad-Elhovo-Yarsovo line as far as the Turkish border. On this line a travel certificate known as otkrit list, issued by the militia director, is necessary. This certificate is valid for several days. It is necessary for the traveler to register at the arrival point. It is also necessary for him to inform the militia of the date he will terminate his travel.

**5. Petir Grigorof, Candidate for Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

After leaving the United States, Grigorof returned to Bulgaria as head of Dimitroff's cabinet and subsequently became general secretary of the Council of Ministers. At present he holds the rank of ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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**6. Trade With USSR**

From 10 to 22 May 1949, seven Soviet commerce ships arrived and left the port at Burgas. These ships brought railroad rails, cement, zinc, and soda for Bulgaria and were reloaded with lead ore for export. Among these ships was a 10,000-ton freighter which unloaded its cargo in 3 days and took on a cargo of lead ore for export.

**7. Rumanian Electric Power for Bulgaria**

Construction of necessary installations has been completed for receiving electric power from Rumania in accordance with trade agreements between Bulgaria and Rumania. The power line from Rumania to Bulgaria passes between Yerkoy and Ruscuk. The new line will go into operation in the first week of June 1949.

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**SECRET****B. Bulgarian Army****1. 1st Mt Arty Regt**

The 1st Mt Arty Regt, attached to the 1st Bulgarian Army, is located at Razlog. One of the batteries of this regiment is located at Nevrokop.

**2. 39th Inf Regt**

The 39th Inf Regt, attached to the 7th Bulgarian Inf Div, is located at Nevrokop. Regimental Commander is Lieutenant Colonel Papalezof.

**3. Field Artillery Battery**

A field artillery battery, attached to the 8th Bulgarian Arty. Regt, arrived at Ivaylovgrad at the end of March 1949. The guns of this battery are drawn by three pairs of draft horses.

**4. II/2d Sig Bn**

A battalion of the 2d Sig Regt is located at Borisovgrad. The regiment is located at Plovdiv.

**5. Bulgarian Tank Unit**

The report that a Bulgarian tank unit consisting of 100 tanks has arrived at Harmanli has not been confirmed.

During April 1949, a Bulgarian antitank unit consisting of 35 antitank guns moved from Stara Zagora, headquarters of the 2d AT Regt, to Lubimet, and then returned to Stara Zagora.

**6. Bulgarian Infantry Firing School**

The Baco Kiro Infantry Firing School, previously located at Veliko-Ternovo, is now located in the barracks of the former Reserve Officer School at Knyazhevo in Sofiya.

**7. Bulgarian Frontier Bn Ammunition Depot**

There is an ammunition and arms depot located in the barracks of the 15th Bulgarian Frontier Bn at Svilengrad. The depot contains 1,500 rifles and 40 heavy and light machine guns.

**8. 9th Arty Regt**

The 9th Fld Arty Regt, attached to the 9th Bulgarian Inf Div, is located at Sevlievo. The regiment's guns are drawn by three pairs of draft horses.

**9. Infantry Units Under Command of Marine Corps**

Marines have been replaced by infantry troops in coastal observation posts in the coast area from the Turkish border as far as Burgas.

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Ammunition is sent from Kerdzhali. It is said that aid is being given from Pesta-re-Dospat, Asenovgrad-Budozem, and Kerdzhali.

11. New Weapons in Bulgarian Army

On 20 October 1948 the 12th Bulgarian Inf Regt was training in the vicinity of Stara Zagora with a new type of heavy machine gun. It is said that the guns are of Russian manufacture. They are mounted on two-wheel carriages. Each gun carriage has a single tongue and is drawn by two men.

The mortars used by the 12th Bulgarian Inf Regt are much smaller than the mortars used during 1945. They are mounted on platforms drawn by three men and have one barrel. Ammunition is carried by five men.

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